

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

July 18, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeaup, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, James Little, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Thomas, Tamiara Wade

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the June 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.

5. Financial Statement Report:

- Hoover presented to the Board the June 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Welborn to approve the June 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
- ARBC President Babin stated that a certain amount of the ARBC Commissions CRDC Project fund balance needs to be maintained to pay for property etc. Discussed the funds of the DOTD through Capital Outlay and the projected cost of construction.

6. Report by Executive Director:

- Hunting Leases – M3-80, M3-115 and Tract 41: Discussed the ability to hunt and/or graze, and which allowable hunting activities. The bids are setup to allow someone to bid on each of the separate tracts. Bankston reminded the Board that Senator Bodi White passed legislation that allowed any owner of a piece of property that sold to ARBC, the opportunity to match the dollar amount that the winner bid. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Carter, to advertise for bids on the three pieces of property separated individually for grazing or hunting, at the lessee's discretion with bow or gun, and any type of animal that is legal.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Lee to pay invoices submitted to ARBC by DOTD for the ARBC share of the costs to acquire the following properties: Invoice for ADV-10 \$156,608.00, Invoice for Parcel M3-115 \$230,518.50, ADV-5 \$194,656.00, Tract 41 and M3-80 \$1,033,581.50.
- Rental Property Discussion: Babin read the minutes of September 2016 where the Board had approved not to pursue rentals. Rietschier said he still believes it is not a good idea to rent properties. The Board discussed advertising for the rental of 2 houses on Carney Road in order to keep the property maintained until the canal is built. Bankston said that he has not found a law prohibiting it. This type of lease is referred to as a "Triple Net Lease." The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, second by Carter to lease the properties provided Bankston determines what procedure must be used to lease the property.
- DOTD Report by William Delmar, P.E.: DOTD has provided requests for the acquisition of Tract M3_115, Blanchard; Tracts 41 and M3-80, David and Sarah McHugh Land Company; ADV-10, McCaleb, and ADV-5, Bajoie. We have received approval from the Corps of the appraisal report for Tract 39, Beech Grove Farms, but we are still waiting on approval from the Corps of the HTRW for Tract 39. DOTD is still waiting on the Corps for a decision on the counter offer submitted by the Bourque family.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel: Counsel reported that the Capital Outlay bill provided \$15 million in Priority One Funding. This will mean that DOTD will be able to continue purchasing property and the moving of utilities. Now it is time for the federal government to commit. The governor wants to go to Washington with a plan to do construction to secure funding to continue the project. Discussed that the completion of Phase 1 would ease some flooding.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business

10. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: August 15, 2017

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary